

REMARKS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by McZeal et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,763,226), hereinafter referred to as McZeal.

Independent claims 1 and 12 have been canceled. New independent claims 18 and 20 have been added in their place. Dependent claims 2 and 9-11 have been canceled. Dependent claims 3-8 and 13-17 have been amended to revise their dependencies and to more clearly recite various inventive features. New dependent claims 19 and 21 have also been added.

Unlike McZeal, the claimed system and method include a handheld device that accesses network communication services accessible by an Internet Protocol (IP) appliance without independently registering with a network service provider. In this manner, the handheld device piggy-backs on the IP appliance's network access to avoid the cost of independent network access.

McZeal discloses a handheld device ("World-Wide-Walkie-Talkie") that is wirelessly coupled to a network for directly accessing network communication services, such as Voice-over-IP (VoIP) and a network bridge to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). (McZeal, Abstract) McZeal provides customers with wireless computing using VoIP communications available by using the internet. (McZeal, column 28, lines 5-10) Access to the PSTN is through "an internet based web server which then routes the call back to [the] correct telephone number on the Public Switched Telephone Network." (McZeal, column 30, lines 33-35)

Contrary to the claimed subject matter, McZeal requires user registration and unit activation of his handheld device for network access. "[I]n order to be an authorized user of the network one must always be properly registered on that network." (McZeal, column 33, lines 27-31, emphasis added, and Figs. 12 and 25) "[A] new user is registered to the network for purposes of actually using the data network to make voice over internet protocol calls, and to engage in ... other services offered by the network." (McZeal, column 33, lines 55-59) In a similar way, the handheld device "must always be properly registered on that network" in order for the unit to be an authorized unit of

the network. (McZeal, column 33, line 62 through column 34, line 10, emphasis added, and Fig. 26)

Consequently, whenever the handheld device in McZeal accesses a network service, it must independently have authorization, in the form of user and unit registration. Once registered, a user name and password are required to gain access to the network services. (McZeal, Figs. 12, 15, and 22)

It is noted that McZeal discloses a BlueTooth Infrared wireless port 16 and a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port 13A. (McZeal, column 32, lines 12-51, and Figs. 1, 3, 21, and 24) These ports are used for communications to other devices such as personal computers, scanners, printers, and other compatible devices. (McZeal, column 32, lines 12-15 and 35-39) However, these communications do not include IP telephony network services, such as VoIP communications, or PSTN access as described below with respect to claims 19 and 21. (McZeal, column 32, lines 12-51, and Figs. 21 and 24)

Unlike McZeal, independent claims 18 and 20 recite that a handheld device accesses IP telephony network communication services accessible by an IP appliance without independently registering the handheld device with a network service provider. In this arrangement, the handheld device utilizes the IP network interface of the IP appliance to access network communication services, details of which are described at page 15, lines 1-9, page 17, line 4 through page 18, line 2, and FIGs. 4 and 5; among other locations. The specification highlights the claimed invention's "advantages over present IP telephones and/or handheld devices that are connected independently to an IP network and/or a PSTN." (Specification, page 17, lines 5-6)

As will be appreciated, McZeal does not teach a system where a handheld device accesses the network communication services accessible to an IP appliance without independently registering with a network service provider.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 18 and 20 are patentable over McZeal. Claims 3-8, 13-17, 19, and 21 depend from either claim 18 or 20 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Also, the dependent claims recite additional inventive features. For example, claims 19 and 21 recite that the network communication services include PSTN

telecommunication services. As shown in FIGs. 4 and 5, the handheld device 14 can establish a telephone call using the PSTN interface 98 of the IP appliance 10 without accessing an IP network 114 when the handheld device 14 is coupled to the IP appliance 10 and the IP appliance 10 has access to the PSTN 118 via the PSTN interface 98. This configuration allows the telephone call to be established through a traditional PSTN connection, without using an IP network. (Specification, page 17, lines 9-10) This feature is not disclosed by McZeal.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned representative to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988, our Order No. INMEP0108US.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By /MDavidGalin/
M. David Galin; Reg. No. 41,767

1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Telephone: (216) 621-1113
Facsimile: (216) 621-6165

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